EXHIBIT 3
DATE 1/10/2013
HB 132

Association of Montana Troopers

October 5, 2012

[redacted]

The Association has received a significant number of critical comments, from both Association members and external public officials, regarding a recent political advertisement in which the Patrol's current Colonel appeared in uniform endorsing one of the candidates for Governor.

The Association is on record financially supporting both gubernatorial candidates and both attorney general candidates. We believe all candidates for these positions are capable individuals with solid backgrounds and experience.

The Association believes it is inappropriate for any trooper, regardless of rank, to appear in uniform using a title to endorse a candidate, regardless of political party. The Association does not have a problem with members appearing in political ads so long as it is done on their own time, out of uniform, and without any other department issued equipment (car, badge, etc.). The Association is the historical political vehicle for the trooper members, not individuals within the Patrol acting in any type of a perceived official capacity.

The Association was under the mistaken impression this issue was resolved four years ago. Apparently that is not the case, which is why the Association will be asking the Legislature in January to permanently prohibit use of trooper uniforms and equipment in future political endorsements.

We regret that we were unable to prevent this occurrence from happening, but rest assured we will be taking steps to make sure it doesn't happen in the future.

Regards,

Art Collins, President
Association of Montana Troopers